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Kindschi comes in from cold

Angry ex-CIA official tells his side of Rewald story

First of a series

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John C. "Jack" Kindschi used to be a CIA agent who claimed he was a businessman.

But Kindschi says he met his match in Ronald R. Rewald, a businessman who now claims to be a CIA agent.

"He sure turned the tables on me," says Kindschi.

The CIA trusted Rewald to provide "commercial cover" — a company with business cards, stationery, a telephone number and address — for some CIA activity.

Kindschi trusted Rewald with his life savings. Now he says Rewald stole the money.

The battle is not over. Rewald, facing criminal charges based in part on Kindschi's testimony, says he is innocent and the CIA is to blame. And Kindschi says Rewald is trying to set him up as the fall guy.

Now, Kindschi has come in from the cold to defend himself.

In an exclusive Advertiser interview, Kindschi offered an intimate view of Rewald and his operation.



a spy's-eye view of ron rewald

Continuing tomorrow and during the week in The Advertiser: Ex-CIA agent Jack Kindschi talks about Ron Rewald.

He said Rewald was not a CIA intelligence officer, that Rewald could not have been a covert agent while going around town claiming to be one, that Rewald's "reports" to the CIA were of a kind that would go "into the round file."

And Kindschi, in response to a question in a deposition, is also on record as saying that no one in the CIA ever told him the CIA would honor any financial obligations of Rewald's company, Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong.

Warm and charismatic, Rewald influenced the meek and the mighty and betrayed the trust of his family

and closest friends, Kindschi said.

Kindschi portrayed Rewald as an outwardly decent and upstanding business and family man. Even Rewald's quirks — a fascination with idol Elvis Presley, buying cars and horses like toys, retreating into the fantasy world of movies — seemed innocuous, he said.

But they showed a desire for instant satisfaction, Kindschi said.

Kindschi said that when he asked Rewald why he had let so many people down, Rewald twice broke down and cried. But each time Rewald returned to his own cover, that of a businessman/spy betrayed by sinister forces.

Kindschi came to Honolulu in 1978 as chief of station for the CIA here. He became one of Rewald's closest personal friends. Early in 1979, he began investing his own life savings and his widowed mother's inheritance in Rewald's companies, an amount that eventually totaled nearly \$400,000.

In 1980, after retiring from the CIA, Kindschi was hired as a consultant in Bishop Baldwin.

Jack Kindschi doesn't look like a secret agent. A coin collector, hiker and sometime birdwatcher, he is short

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